THE SECOND DAY.

Tuesday, the 3rd March, 1931.

The Assembly met again at 11-30 A. M., the Dewan presiding.

The consideration of the subjects according to the list distributed among the members the previous day was taken up.

1. Finance.

MR. R. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Parur*) pleading for a more equitable administration of the State finances, said that the Government had not laid down any definite financial policy for their guidance. The Financial Secretary ought to be a person of financial vision, capable of planning wise schemes for the welfare of the State. The amalgamation of the posts of Account Officer and Financial Secretary was not conducive to the efficient administration of finances.

Government realised a land tax of at least Rs. 100 from landed property yielding an annual income of Rs. 1,000; but the income tax on an income of Rs. 1,000 was only Re 1. Incomes below Rs. 2,000 were not assessed to income tax. On the other hand, landed property yielding so low an annual income as Re. 1 was subjected to taxation. In addition, the ryots had to bear the burden of various indirect taxes.

The people of North Travancore were labouring under a special disadvantage in regard to the export of agricultural produce. Their export commodities were subjected to duties both in Travancore and in the Cochin State. It was necessary that the Travancore Government should give up the duty on goods passing into the Cochin territory.

Government should, in times of economic crisis caused by the fall in the prices of raw materials, open negotiations with foreign countries in order that the exports of the State might fetch the highest possible prices. Ryots who were hard hit by the disorganised state of markets should be rendered every assistance by the remission of land tax.

The people of South Travancore suffered a great deal by the ravages of cholera. It was the Government's duty to help them by remitting the taxes due from them ; but, as a matter of fact, they were adopting stringent measures for the speedy realisation of land revenue.

North Travancore was still very backward in the matter of communications. Representations had been repeatedly made for the construction of a bridge over the Alwaye river, but to no purpose. The

bridge would not cost more than Rs. 2 lakhs. While the Government failed to provide for that work, they were spending Rs. 30 lakhs on railway extension to the Trivandrum town. The inconveniences which the railway extension scheme sought to remedy were nothing comparep with those of the moffusil.

There was no adequate response to the cries of the inhabitants of villages for roads, bridges and other rural amenities; while on luxuries like water-works, electricity and railway extension for the Trivandrum town, a sum of nearly one crore of rupees was being spent out of public revenue.

The member observed that the fact that the Government had lent nearly 2 3/4 crores of rupees to the British Government at a low rate of interest betokened an attitude of indifference towards the monetary needs of the people of the State.

One-fifth of the State expenditure was on the Department of Education. But the education imparted to the boys and young men of the land did not enable them to earn their livelihood. The popular demand for a gradual transformation of the system of education remained unheeded.

The Department of Agriculture and the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department were directly concerned with the welfare of the agricultural population. But those branches of administration were relegated to the position of minor departments and were not being encouraged and developed as they ought to be.

DEWAN : I might say that it has been usual in the proceedings of this Assembly, ordinarily, to limit the maximum time allowed to each member to make his representation to 15 minutes. That is the rule which has been rightly followed all along and it is a very beneficial rule in the interests of the members of the Assembly. I request the members to kindly adhere to that rule.

MEMBER : Government were spending about Rs. 5 lakhs on charities ; but nearly the whole of that amount was enjoyed by the Brahmins who were already a well-to-do community. It was not right that so large an amount of money should be practically set apart for the benefit of a prosperous community when there was need for that and more for relieving the people in distress.

The Public Works Department of the State stood first in the list of the spending departments. From a taluk-war statement of road mileage, it would, however, be seen that roads had been constructed with little or no regard to the distribution of population. Road mileage became smaller and smaller in proportion to the distance of the taluks from the capital. It would be seen that, in the matter of educational institutions also, the distribution of population was not a factor which was given due consideration.

The member in conclusion urged the need for a thorough reform of the financial policy of the Government and for a more equitable administration of the State finances in the light of his suggestions.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai. You have referred to what you consider as certain general principles which should guide the Government in its financial policy; and you have also gone into some details. These details could not have been anticipated by the title which you have given to your subject.

Your representation will be considered.

2. The financial policy of Government.

MR. VASUDEVAN DAMODARAN NAMPUTIRI (*Jenmies, Kottayam Division*) speaking in Malayalam, said that Government's monopoly over royal trees standing on private holdings was a source of loss and inconvenience to the people. The monopoly should be abolished.

The levy of tolls on motor cars and other vehicles which were owned for private use but were not plying for hire should be abolished.

Poramboke lands of all kinds, whether wet or dry, should be made available for cultivation.

There was scarcity of money in the country. Government money invested outside the State as well as the Devaswom funds should be given on loan, on easy terms, to the people of the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങൾ ആദ്യമായി ഇവിടെപ്രതിപാദിച്ചത് കുടിയാന്മാരുടെ പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽ നില്ക്കുന്നരാജകീയ വൃക്ഷങ്ങളിന്മേൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുള്ള അവകാശം അവർക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ്. ഇതു നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ഇതിലേക്കു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ആ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

രണ്ടാമതായി നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതു് റോഡിൽക്കൂടി പോകുന്ന വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും പിരിച്ചു വരുന്ന ചുങ്കം ഏതാനും വാഹനങ്ങൾക്കു ഇല്ലാതാക്കണമെന്നാണ്. അതായതു് വാടകയ്ക്കു വിടുന്നവാഹനങ്ങളൊഴികെ ശേഷമുള്ള വാഹനങ്ങളെ ഇതിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിക്കണമെന്നാണ്. ടോളുകൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതു ഇൻകംടാക്സ് പോലെ ഒരാദായമാർഗ്ഗമായിട്ടല്ല. പുതിയ റോഡോ വലുതായപണം മുടക്കിയുള്ള പാലങ്ങളോ മറ്റോ തീരുന്നതായാൽ അതിലേക്കുചിലവായ തുകയുടെഒരംശം എടുക്കുന്നതിനും ക്രമേക്രമേ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതായ ചിലവുകൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതിനും ആയി അതുവഴിപോകുന്ന എല്ലാവാഹനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും